

REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS

Transitioning from Pandemic to Endemic



After two full years, we still can't predict with certainty when the COVID-19 pandemic will end, but we do know that eventually it will become another of the infectious diseases that are known as "endemic" to the human population.

When a sufficient number of people become immune to a disease, either through vaccination or natural infection, its spread starts to slow down and the number of cases gradually decreases. But that doesn't mean it will disappear instantly or completely. It's possible that the spread of an infection will eventually stabilize at a constant level so that it becomes present in communities at all times, possibly at a relatively low, sometimes predictable rate. This is what we mean when we say a disease is endemic.

We know there will be challenges to learning to live with COVID-19, and that challenge will be especially difficult for the roughly 7 million immunocompromised Americans who remain especially vulnerable and will have to keep their guard up. Many seniors are concerned with these challenges too. COVID-19 has been particularly hard on our elder population.

As we move forward, my colleagues in the legislature and I will continue to keep the welfare of our seniors on our minds as we listen to testimony, debate legislation, file amendments and consider the budget. We'll continue to consider the continuum of care and supports necessary to help seniors live safely in their communities.

I hope that some of the accommodations and lessons we learned during the pandemic will help inform our post-pandemic efforts, as well. Whether it's testing and wearing a mask to avoid spreading germs; using technology to attend events virtually; or retail modifications like priority shopping hours and curbside pickup, or, most importantly, using life-saving medicine to vaccinate, we have many tools and techniques to help us transition to post-pandemic life.

If you have suggestions or concerns, or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.



Kate Hogan, State Representative
Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow

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Virtual office hours for constituents will be held March 11 from 1-2 pm and March 14 from 6-7 pm. Residents may meet with Rep. Hogan by appointment via Zoom or telephone. To schedule an appointment, please call (617) 722-2600 (option #2) to leave a voicemail or send email to Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov. Please register for an appointment by 5 pm on February 16.